topping and desuckering schemes etc. The Tobacco Board has drawn up a scheme covering a large area for improving yield and quality of FCV tobacco during the current crop season, 1986-87. The Tobacco Board has also initiated a scheme to supply JTS Jackets to the farmers at 50 per cent of the cost to reduce the cost of curing.

News item captioned "Smuggling on Indo-Tibet border

841. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in 'Indian Express' on October 13, 1986 captioned "Smuggling on Indo-Tibet border";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government to stop smuggling activities on this border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Smuggling on Indo-Tibet border" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 13th October, 1986.

(b) Reports received do not indicate prevalence of smuggling activities in the region on any significant scale.

(c) In order to check smuggling activities in the region the Government have entrusted certain function of the officers of Customs under the Customs Act to the offiicers of Indo-Tibetan Border Police. The tends in smuggling and seizures made in the region are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial measures in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government agencies deployed in the region.

Fall in deposits of commercial banks

842. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the aggregate deposits of the scheduled commercial banks came down during the fortnight ending 12th September 1986 as reported in the 'Financial Express' of October 11, 1986; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what remedial steps are being taken to boost the deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The variation in growth rate of deposits from one fortnight to another is a normal phenomenon in the Banking Industry. Short-term fluctuations in deposits could be caused by a number of factors including seasonal requirements of business. Such rises/falls from fortnight to fortnight are not unusual and are transtional in nature. Deposits and other Monetary and banking aggregates are under continuing review by the Reserve Bank of India and changes are instituted when considered necessary.

NTC mills running in loss

843. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the textile mills owned by National Textile Corporation are running in loss;

(b) how many textile mills are managed by N. T. C. and how many are making profit and how many are running in losses;

(c) what is the amount of total accumulated loss in N. T. C. units;

(d) how many units have been made viable uptil now after their taking over;

(e) how many units are absolutely unviable; and

(f) whether Government are considering any proposal to close down such unviable units permanently?